

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the pending application is respectfully requested on the basis of the following particulars.

1. Interview of February 7, 2008

The applicant is appreciative of the opportunity to discuss the pending application with the examiner on February 7, 2008. During the interview, the subject matter of the pending claims and U.S. publication no. 2003/0236045 (*Ching-Chen*) were discussed.

In particular, the distinctions between Fig. 2 of the *Ching-Chen* publication and Fig. 3 of the pending application were discussed. The examiner helpfully suggested that meshes of Fig. 3 of the pending application appear to be non-uniform and different in size and shape from adjacent meshes, in contrast to the disclosure of the *Ching-Chen* publication, which only shows uniform openings that have the same size and shape as adjacent openings. The examiner indicated that appropriate consideration would be provided to amended claims emphasizing this distinction.

Accordingly, claim 1 is amended as shown above and discussed in detail below.

2. In the claims

As shown in the foregoing LIST OF CURRENT CLAIMS, the claims have been amended to more clearly point out the subject matter for which protection is sought.

Claim 1 is amended to recite that the plurality of meshes defined by the wires have irregular shapes such that any one of the plurality of meshes is non-uniform and has a different size and shape from at least an adjacent one of the plurality of meshes, which is also of non-uniform size and shape. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added, since support for the amendments is clearly found at least in Fig. 3 of the pending application.

Claims 2-4 are left unchanged.

Entry of the LIST OF CURRENT CLAIMS is respectfully requested in the next Office communication.

3. Rejection of claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. publication no. 2003/0236045 (*Ching-Chen*)

Reconsideration of this rejection is respectfully requested, in view of the amendments to claim 1, on the basis that the *Ching-Chen* publication fails to disclose each and every recited element of amended claims 1. The remaining claims depend from claim 1, and are therefore patentable as containing all of the recited elements of claim 1, as well as for their respective recited features.

As discussed during the interview of February 7, 2008, the embodiment of claim 1 requires a wrinkled net for making a cleaning implement that has a net body with a plurality of first wires extended in a first direction and a plurality of wires intersecting with the first wires and extended in a second direction that is different from the first. The pluralities of first and second wires are wrinkled in irregular directions. A plurality of meshes is defined by the first and second wires to have irregular shapes. As amended, claim 1 further defines the meshes to be irregularly shaped such that any one of the meshes is non-uniform and has a different size and shape from at least an adjacent mesh, which is also of non-uniform size and shape.

One of the advantages of the configuration recited in amended claim 1 is that the unit density of the wrinkled net is higher, and thus, the claimed wrinkled net has excellent absorptive capacity.

The *Ching-Chen* publication fails to disclose meshes to be irregularly shaped such that any one of the meshes is non-uniform and has a different size and shape from at least an adjacent mesh, which is also of non-uniform size and shape, as required by amended claim 1.

In contrast to the embodiment of amended claim 1, the *Ching-Chen* publication discloses a crimped bath scrubber that, while having irregular waved

sections, discloses uniformly shaped meshes (paragraph [005]; Fig. 2). In particular, each mesh opening of the *Ching-Chen* publication is shown to have the same size and shape as each adjacent opening (Fig. 2; paragraph [0020]). In comparison to the embodiment of amended claim 1, the material of the scrubber of the *Ching-Chen* publication has less absorptive power than an equal area or volume of the material of the wrinkled net of amended claim 1.

Accordingly, since the *Ching-Chen* publication discloses uniformly shaped openings that are the same size and shape as adjacent openings, the *Ching-Chen* publication fails to disclose meshes to be irregularly shaped such that any one of the meshes is non-uniform and has a different size and shape from at least an adjacent mesh, which is also of non-uniform size and shape, as required by amended claim 1.

Accordingly, the *Ching-Chen* publication fails to disclose every recited element of amended claim 1, and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

As mentioned above, applicants submit that independent claim 1 is patentable and therefore, claims 2-4, which depend from claim 1, are also considered to be patentable as containing all of the elements of claim 1, as well as for their respective recited features.

Application No.: 10/800,616  
Examiner: Spisich, Mark  
Art Unit: 1744

4. Conclusion

As a result of the amendment to the claims, and further in view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that every pending claim in the present application be allowed and the application be passed to issue.

If any issues remain that may be resolved by a telephone or facsimile communication with the applicant's attorney, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the numbers shown below.

BACON & THOMAS, PLLC  
625 Slaters Lane, Fourth Floor  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314-1176  
Phone: (703) 683-0500  
Facsimile: (703) 683-1080

Date: February 20, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Patrick M. Buechner', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

PATRICK M. BUECHNER  
Attorney for Applicant  
Registration No. 57,504